

A circular black ink stamp from the Intellectual Property Office (IPO). The text "O I P E" is at the top, "JUN 11 2002" is in the center, and "PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE" is at the bottom. The stamp is slightly tilted.

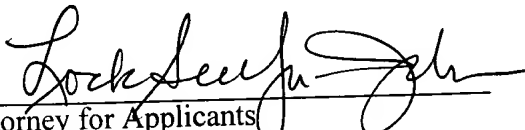
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To the best of Applicant's knowledge, a first Office Action has not yet been received in this application.

It is respectfully requested that the above information be considered by the Examiner and that a copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be returned indicating that such information has been considered.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicants
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